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Page 8

Protest this way, not that way: In statehouses, varied rules restrict public voices

By K. KRUESI/J. AMY/A. IZAGUIRRE

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Shaking violently between sobs, parent Sarah Shoop Neumann could only manage a whisper as state troopers escorted her out of a Tennessee legislative hearing where she was waiting to testify against a bill that would let teachers carry guns. "I was supposed to speak. I was supposed to testify," said Neumann, whose son still attends an elementary school where six people — including three 9-year-old children — were fatally shot this year.

Moments earlier, a Republican subcommittee chairman ordered law enforcement to clear the public out of the room after the crowd erupted into applause and others defied a new ban on holding signs during committee proceedings.



Laura Seay holds a sign over the House floor during a special session of the state legislature on public safety Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 2

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JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30pm - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

THURSDAY
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

FRIDAY
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Protest this way, not that way: In statehouses, varied rules restrict public voices

Continued from Front

Only after troopers cleared the room was Neumann allowed to return to testify. While acts of protest big and small are common in legislatures, states often have rules in place to limit disruptions to government proceedings, with authorities given wide latitude to remove people who jeer, chant or are otherwise seen to interrupt debates. People who go to capitols to voice their opinions often face a varied set of regulations that limit the display of signs, political messaging on clothing and even where people can gather, with penalties ranging from expulsion to criminal charges.

In some cases, lawmakers have pursued policies that effectively limit acts of protest, such as requiring people to get permission before protesting, leading to legal resistance and criticism that lawmakers are trying to tamp down on dissent and free speech rights.

"These kinds of rules limit our ability to communicate directly with our elected representatives who are supposed to be reacting to these views," said Vera Eidelman, staff attorney with the ACLU Speech, Privacy & Technology project. "They make it more difficult for the public to have an impact on the legislation that will very much impact them." Tennessee provides the latest example, where a judge took swift action to block the new GOP-approved rule to penalize disruptive lawmakers and ban the public from holding signs during government proceedings. State officials are fighting to uphold the ban. Neumann was among the grieving families that had come to the Tennessee Capitol this week for a special session that many of them hoped would address gun laws after the shooting at The Covenant School. She has spent the past five months attempting to win over hesitant lawmakers.



Melissa Alvarez hugs her son, Ignacio, 2, with the words "Protect My Babies" written on her arms in the House Civic Justice Committee of 1st Extraordinary Session meeting during a special session of the state legislature on public safety Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

The hundreds of families, community organizers and advocates who have shown up to the Republican-dominated Legislature have been met with an enhanced law enforcement presence and found large sections of the building roped off — forcing many to be turned away from watching their government at work.

"I think this is a dangerous step that we are taking," said Democratic Rep. Jason Powell, who represents Nashville. "I thought it was a dangerous step when I saw the halls of the chamber and saw more people with batons than people who are here to fight for justice."

Similar policies elsewhere have faced legal push-back. A law in Georgia that blocks disruptive protests at government buildings is being legally challenged. A federal judge in Mississippi has recently blocked a law that requires permission from state police for protests or other gather-

ings near state government buildings in the capital city. Earlier this year, Tennessee Republicans attracted national attention for expelling two young Black Democratic lawmakers for breaking House rules during a demonstration in support of gun control.

During this week's special session in Tennessee, the existing political tensions were only enhanced when the Republican-dominated House established the new policy on signs and disruptive lawmakers. Protesters were quick to test the boundaries of the new parameters.

"Rules exist for two reasons: One is to provide order and second, to promote civility," said Republican Rep. Gino Bulso. "These rules do that exceptionally well."

Joe Cohn, legislative and policy director at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, said it is understandable for the government to impose rules that allow officials to carry out their duties but added

that the policies must be carefully calibrated with the public's free speech rights.

"The most important thing to remember is that when the government imposes rules on members of the public who wish to observe official proceedings, those rules have to be reasonable and they have to be content and viewpoint neutral," said Cohn.

At the Georgia Statehouse, protesters risk criminal charges under a state law that prohibits disruptive protests in the state's Capitol and adjoining buildings, although the law's constitutionality is being challenged following recent arrests of protesters. Charges were later dropped by county prosecutors.

A Democratic state lawmaker and other protesters sued over the law in federal court in 2020, arguing that it is overly broad and violates the First Amendment. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled in 2006 that a similar law meant to bar disruption

of public meetings was unconstitutional.

Despite questions about the law's constitutionality, frequent protesters at Georgia's Capitol are mindful of the law. For example, Democrats staging a sit-in over a recent voting law left an aisle open on the stairway that they sat on, because fully blocking it could have triggered their arrest.

This year, the majority-white and Republican-led Mississippi Legislature passed a bill to require state-issued permits for protests in parts of Jackson, the capital city, which is majority-Black and governed by Democrats.

In effect, the law would require people to obtain permission from state law enforcement officials for any protest near the statehouse, Governor's Mansion or other state government buildings in the capital city. A federal judge blocked the law in a ruling that said it would have a chilling effect on First Amendment rights. There was already a scheduling process for people who wanted to have events in and around the Capitol, but the law would have given broader authority to the state over issuing permits for protests or other large gatherings in other parts of downtown Jackson.

Many statehouses also have rules around the display of political signs, with policies not allowing banners or signs to be displayed in legislative chambers but granting permission for people to have them in common areas like rotundas.

Kansas allows handheld signs inside the building during protests, but not sticks with those signs -- even though state law permits people to carry concealed guns in the building.

Those policies were set separately, but state Rep. Kyle Hoffman, a western Kansas Republican, said, "Concealed carry is a passive defensive weapon."

"A stick, I think, would be more considered offensive," he added. □

Judge asks if poverty qualifies for Biden policy letting migrants from 4 countries into U.S.

By JUAN A. LOZANO

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge on Friday questioned whether living in poverty would be enough to qualify someone for a key immigration policy from President Joe Biden that allows a limited number of people from four countries in the Americas to enter the U.S. on humanitarian grounds. The program allows up to 30,000 people into the U.S. each month from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela combined.

The program is being challenged in a lawsuit filed by Texas and 20 other Republican-leaning states. They're accusing it of being a "shadow immigration system" that's letting in nearly everyone who applies.

U.S. District Judge Drew Tipton said that a "massive chunk of the world" lives in poverty, adding he's visited Haiti and seen terrible living conditions there firsthand. "Does the fact they are living in poverty qualify as an urgent humanitarian need?" Tipton asked as closing arguments were being presented in the trial in Victoria, Texas.

"I think probably not," said Elissa Fudim, a lawyer with the U.S. Justice Department, which is defending



Valerie Laveus greets her brother Reginald Malherbe Daniel as he arrives for the first time to the United States from Haiti at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023.

the federal government in the lawsuit.

Esther Sung, an attorney with the Justice Action Center, one of several immigrant rights groups that are defending the parole program in the lawsuit, said that Congress "has frowned on letting a migrant in for purely economic reasons." Attorneys for Texas and the other states say the large numbers of migrants being paroled in the U.S. show officials are granting parole en masse and not on a

case-by-case basis as required by law.

But lawyers with the U.S. Justice Department and the immigrant rights groups argued migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela are not simply fleeing economic hardship but also oppressive regimes, escalating violence and worsening political conditions that have endangered their lives.

The program's supporters argue it isn't giving blanket approval to all who apply

and that each case is individually reviewed. They dispute the claim everyone is accepted, saying people who had made it to the final approval step after arriving in the U.S. have been rejected. No number was given on how many such rejections have occurred. They said the program has also helped reduce the strain on resources and border agents along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Tipton pushed back on claims from Texas' lawyers

Associated Press

too. They have argued the state is spending millions of dollars on health care and public education costs because of an influx of paroled migrants.

Tipton asked how Texas could be spending more if data shows that the parole program has actually reduced the number of migrants coming into the U.S. "Are you suggesting Texas is spending more money because of an increased presence (of migrants)?" Tipton asked Texas' lawyers. Tipton was not expected to rule immediately on the legality of the parole program once closing arguments wrapped up Friday. A decision could come months down the road.

But Tipton said he was uncomfortable with issuing any temporary order in the case that would halt the parole program nationwide, as there are U.S. states that say the initiative has benefited them. The trial began Thursday and only one witness testified — an American who is sponsoring a migrant from Nicaragua who is now living in the U.S. because of the program. Most of the trial has been taken up by closing arguments and questions to the lawyers from Tipton. □

Republicans pick Houston to host their 2028 national convention

By WILL WEISERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans on Friday chose Houston to host their 2028 national convention, hoping to cement support in Texas even as Democrats are betting that a booming Hispanic population and other key demographic shifts could eventually turn the country's largest reliably red state blue.

"I am excited to announce Houston as the host city for the 2028 Republican National Convention," Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel said

in a statement. She applauded the committee's "smart business decision" last spring to allow for selecting the site "earlier than ever."

Houston is the United States' fourth largest city and is among its fastest growing, with a population exceeding 2.3 million. It was for decades a Republican stronghold, the home turf of President George H.W. Bush and the site of the Republican convention that nominated him for reelection in 1992.

But the city has since become solidly Democratic,

with the party sweeping every countywide seat in Harris County, which includes Houston, in 2016. In a reflection of the change, McDaniel's statement listed among the officials Republicans are "eager to work with" Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, a former state lawmaker who was once a leading Democratic voice in the Texas House.

"As the nation's most diverse and inclusive city, we believe Houston represents the future of the United States and our aspirations as a country," Turner said in a statement released by



Republican National Convention, Aug. 24, 2020, in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

the RNC. Houston's blue shift is a departure from the rest of Texas, which hasn't supported a Democrat for president since Jimmy Carter in 1976 and where Republicans have won every statewide office since 1994 — the longest political winning streak in the nation. Still, Texas is now more than 40% Hispanic, and its strong economy has brought in many new residents from more liberal states. □

Former residents of New Hampshire's youth center demand federal investigation into abuse claims

By HOLLY RAMER

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) —

Frustrated former residents of New Hampshire's only youth detention center are pushing for a federal investigation into allegations of decades of abuse.

The Sununu Youth Services Center in Manchester, previously called the Youth Development Center, has been under criminal investigation by the state since 2019. Ten former workers and an 11th who worked at a pretrial facility in Concord were arrested in 2021. Close to 1,000 men and women have sued the state alleging physical, sexual or emotional abuse. But the slow pace of the criminal and civil proceedings has some calling for the federal Department of Justice to step in.

"Get the state out of it, because they're not looking to give us real justice," said Charles Glenn, who spent several years at the facility in the mid-1990s. "They're complicit to sexual physical violence in this institution for over 40 years because for over 40 years, they've done nothing."

Glenn, 42, helped organize a rally Friday afternoon in Concord where several former residents and their supporters spoke. He did not



Corrine Moon, center, is comforted by other former residents of New Hampshire's youth detention center as she speaks outside the Statehouse in Concord on Friday, Aug. 25, 2023.

Associated Press

attend because he is serving a 40-year-to-life sentence for second-degree murder, but his wife spoke on his behalf.

In his lawsuit, Glenn alleges he was raped by three workers at the youth center and beaten by a dozen more, suffering multiple broken bones.

Glenn said in a phone interview that the abuse started within a week of his arrival, when he came out of his

room one night after having a nightmare and was dragged back in, put in restraints and beaten.

"I kept screaming and crying, and I was scared to be in there, and they wrapped a towel around my face to muffle the screams," he said.

The abuse escalated when he was moved to another housing unit, Glenn said.

"We were combative verbally, and they wanted to

demasculate us and humiliate us and do something that would break us," he said.

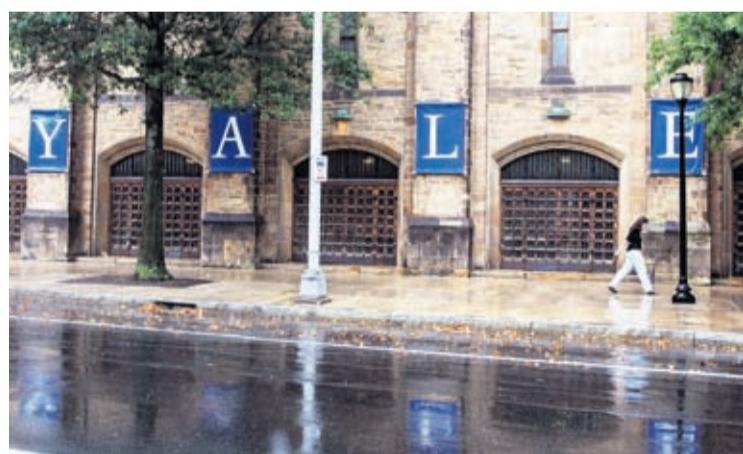
Corrine Moon, 40, who spent three years at the facility in the late 1990s, said workers in the girls' cottage looked the other way when male staffers from other dorms showed up at night. "They were just as sick as the men who would come and rape us. They never seemed to question why

my abuser would come to my room in the middle of the night and close the door behind him," she said. "I never knew when I would get a surprise visit in the middle of the night."

She and others argued it is a conflict of interest for separate teams from the attorney general's office to both prosecute alleged abusers criminally and defend the state against allegations in the civil lawsuits.

Michael Garrity, spokesperson for the New Hampshire attorney general's office, said Friday the state's criminal investigation remains active. He referred questions about a possible federal investigation to the U.S. attorney's office. A spokesperson there said she could neither confirm or deny the existence of any investigation.

In similar cases elsewhere, the U.S. Department of Justice reached a settlement in 2022 with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice after finding state officials were violating the rights of incarcerated youths by failing to protect them from fights, forcing them to spend days or weeks in isolation for minor offenses and failing to provide mental health treatment when they threaten to harm or kill themselves. □



A woman walks by a Yale sign reflected in the rainwater on the Yale University campus, Aug. 22, 2021, in New Haven, Conn.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

Yale University and a student group announced Friday that they've reached a settlement in a federal lawsuit that accused the Ivy League school of discriminating against students with mental health disabilities, including pressuring them to withdraw.

Under the agreement, Yale will modify its policies regarding medical leaves

Yale and a student group are settling a mental health discrimination lawsuit

of absence, including streamlining the reinstatement process for students who return to campus. The plaintiffs had argued the process was onerous, discouraging students for decades from taking medical leave when they needed it most. The settlement is a "watershed moment" for the university and mental health patients, said 2019 graduate Rishi Mirchandani, a co-founder of Elis for Rachael, the group that sued. It was formed in honor of a Yale student who took her own life to help

students with mental health issues. "This historic settlement affirms that students with mental health needs truly belong," Mirchandani said. A message was left seeking comment with a Yale spokesperson. A joint statement from Elis for Rachael and Yale, released on Friday, confirmed the agreement "to resolve a lawsuit filed last November in federal district court related to policies and practices impacting students with mental health disabilities." Under the agreement, Yale will allow students to study

part-time if they have urgent medical needs. Elis for Rachael said it marks the first time the university has offered such an option. Students granted the accommodation at the beginning of a new term will receive a 50% reduction in tuition.

"Although Yale describes the circumstances for this accommodation as 'rare,' this change still represents a consequential departure from the traditional all-or-nothing attitude towards participation in academic life at Yale," the group said in a statement. □

Descendants of a British owner of slaves in Guyana apologize

By BERT WILKINSON

Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana

(AP) — The descendants of a 19th-century Scottish sugar and coffee planter who owned thousands of slaves in Guyana apologized Friday for the sins of their ancestor, calling slavery a crime against humanity with lasting negative impacts. Charles Gladstone, a descendant of former plantation owner John Gladstone, traveled to Guyana from Britain with five relatives to offer the formal apology.

"It is with deep shame and regret that we acknowledge our ancestors' involvement in this crime and with heartfelt sincerity, we apologize to the descendants of the enslaved in Guyana," he told an audience at the University of Guyana. "In doing so, we acknowledge slavery's continuing impact on the daily lives of many."

Neither Guyana President Irfaan Ali, who on Thursday demanded reparations and lashed out at the descendants of European slave traders, nor other senior government officials were in the audience of a



Charles Gladstone, a descendant of former plantation owner John Gladstone, delivers an apology on behalf of the Gladstone family at Georgetown University in Georgetown, Guyana, Friday, Aug. 25, 2023.

couple hundred students, university staff members and representatives of grassroots organizations. During his speech, Gladstone announced that his family would create a fund for various unnamed projects in the country as part of a "meaningful and long-term relationship between our family and the people of Guyana."

"In writing this heartfelt apology, we also acknowl-

edge Sir John Gladstone's role in bringing indentured laborers to Guyana, and apologize for the clear and manifold injustices of this," he said.

John Gladstone was the father of 19th century British Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone and received more than 100,000 pounds in compensation for hundreds of slaves.

A renowned 1823 slave revolt took place on his estate

at Success Village on Guyana's east coast. The Demerara rebellion was crushed in two days with hundreds of slaves killed. Some enslaved people were beheaded and had their heads planted on poles on the way to Georgetown, Guyana's colonial and current capital, as a lesson to others with similar ideas.

Outside the auditorium where Gladstone made the apology, a handful of

Associated Press

protesters shouted "Murderers!" and held signs reading, "The Gladstones are murderers" and "Stolen people, stolen dreams."

The leader of the protest, Cedric Castellow, dismissed the apology as "perfunctory" and said Britain and other European countries owe Guyana and the Caribbean billions of dollars in reparation payments.

"The British government and others benefited from the slave trade, their descendants and heirs," Castellow said. "They owe us, and the legacy will affect future generations as well."

Some protesters slipped into the auditorium. One began to shout at the end of the apology and was shushed by the university's vice chancellor, Paloma Mohamed, who asked them not to embarrass Guyana.

Gladstone also demanded that the British government start "meaningful discussions" with a 15-nation Caribbean trade block known as Caricom that is seeking reparations and hired a law firm to examine its case for financial compensation from Britain and other European nations. □

Dutch Supreme Court confirms immunity of former Israeli officers over a deadly 2014 Gaza airstrike

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The Dutch Supreme Court on Friday upheld a ruling that a Palestinian man cannot sue Israel's former defense minister and another former senior military officer over their roles in a deadly 2014 Gaza airstrike.

The highest Dutch court confirmed findings by judges in two lower courts that Benny Gantz and former Air Force Commander Amir Eshel are protected from civil proceedings in the Netherlands because they have "functional immunity."

The long-running case was brought by Ismail Ziada, who lost six members of his family in the airstrike that

lawyers for the two Israelis argued was part of an Israeli military operation during the 2014 Gaza conflict.

Ziada wanted the Dutch court to order Gantz and Eshel to pay damages. His legal team argued that

the men didn't have immunity because their actions amounted to war crimes. In a written reaction, Ziada said he was "disappointed and angered" by the Supreme Court ruling and is considering appealing to the European Court of Human Rights.

"The Court has once again chosen to put politics over people and blocked access to justice. Today's ruling only deepens the injustice we have suffered," he added.

Israel's Justice Ministry told a lower Dutch court that an internal Israeli military investigation determined the airstrike had killed four militants hiding in the house. It said the attack was permissible under international



Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz, speaks during a joint press conference with his Greek counterpart Nikos Panagiotopoulos, at the Greek Ministry of Defence, in Athens, Greece, Friday, Nov. 18, 2022.

Associated Press

law. Gaza's Hamas rulers themselves have said that two militants were in the building.

Gantz thanked his country's justice and foreign ministries for leading "the push that led to the dismissal of the lawsuit against me and against the former Air Force Commander Major General (ret.) Amir Eshel in the Netherlands."

Gantz who was military chief of staff at the time of the airstrike in Gaza and Eshel had immunity because they were carrying out Israeli government policies, Dutch courts in The Hague ruled.

The Supreme Court agreed in a short written ruling issued Friday. □

Experts warn against wave of fake news ahead of Mexico's 2024 presidential election

By MARCOS MARTÍNEZ CHACÓN

Associated Press

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)

— With the 2024 Mexican presidential election less than a year away, political analysts and academics warn of a wave of fake news and disinformation making the rounds on the internet, a trend they deem especially worrisome as some of the falsehoods seem to come from the party in power and the president himself.

Fake news has long been disseminated during electoral campaigns in Mexico and the current electoral cycle is far from being the exception.

Since June, when Mexico's ruling party, Morena, and the country's main opposition parties launched their internal proceedings to pick their contenders for the 2024 race, The Associated Press Spanish-language fact-checking team found about 40 fake publications across social media platforms, favoring or discrediting members of both sides of the political spectrum. Political observers and academics say it is worri-



A Mexican flag waves in front of The National Palace, the office of the president, in Mexico City's main square, the Zocalo, at sunrise, April 24, 2023.

Associated Press

some that, on occasions, unsubstantiated accusations against members of the opposition have come from President Andrés Manuel López Obrador himself. "Clearly the president has been a factor in generating the type of misinformation that ends up being polarizing," said Manuel Alejandro Guerrero, a professor of social and political

sciences at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. He points at a recent incident in which López Obrador and his supporters accused Xóchitl Gálvez, a presumptive opposition presidential hopeful at the time, of planning to end a host of popular social programs implemented by his government if she were to win the presidency.

Gálvez decried the president's comments as false and in early June secured a judge's order guaranteeing her right of reply and allowing her to respond in person at one of his daily morning press briefings. Not long after, she formally entered the presidential race as a candidate of a broad opposition coalition the historically leftist PRD, the

conservative PAN and the PRI that ruled Mexico for 70 years.

"Despite the denials of Xóchitl herself, what we see here is a lie that is taken on again and again, sometimes from circles very close to the president," said Guerrero.

Morena did not respond to a request for comment about accusations of being behind falsehoods regarding the opposition.

In recent months, the Spanish-language fact-checking team at AP found several publications on X, the social platform formerly known as Twitter, and Facebook, asserting the same falsehood about Gálvez that she would end the president's social assistance programs if she were to be elected president. Most of the misleading content about Gálvez came from accounts affiliated with Morena or López Obrador, the team found. But AP also found several false publications disseminated online against former Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum, one of Morena's main contenders for the presidency. □

Panama eyes new measures as flow of migrants through Darien Gap

PANAMA CITY (AP) — The government of Panama said Thursday it will launch a new campaign to stem the flow of migrants through the dangerous, jungle-clad Darien Gap, after crossings hit 300,000 so far this year. In comparison, less than 250,000 migrants crossed in all of 2022.

The plan, named "Darien is a jungle, not a road," will be launched next week, officials said, but they could barely hide their frustration with neighboring Colombia's inability to stop migrants from coming to the two countries' roadless border.

"Despite all the efforts, meetings with other countries involved have not managed to stop (the flow of migrants)," Panama's

Security Minister Juan Manuel Pino told a news conference.

Officials said the massive trekking of migrants through the gap now running between 2,500 and

3,000 per day has polluted and damaged the jungle, as well as exposed people to risks and rights abuses. Samira Gozaine, Panama's top immigration official, said "don't tell me the bor-

der can't be closed," adding "it is possible, though it would take action."

In April, the United States, Panama and Colombia agreed to try to crack down on the smuggling rings that bring migrants through the gap.

But earlier this month, Gozaine said there has been a lack of information sharing and joint action on the part of Colombia.

"Instead of getting better, it has gotten worse, in spite of the negotiations with Colombia," Gozaine said. "There has been no agreement, no information sharing, nor any effort that might help Panama manage the unregulated flow, which has grown considerably in recent days."

"Unfortunately, we have

not been able to reach any agreement with Colombia, which continues to indiscriminately send us not only people from other countries, but Colombians as well," she added.

There was no immediate reaction from the Colombian government.

The United Nations projected that if the pace keeps up, as many as 400,000 may cross the gap by the year's end.

Migrants from South America mainly Venezuelans use the Darien Gap to travel by land through Central America and head on to the U.S. southwestern border. But a growing number of people from other places, including Africa and Asia, travel to South America to use the gap as well. □



Migrants sit under a sign marking the Panama-Colombia border during their trek across the Darien Gap, May 9, 2023.

Associated Press

Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanation.org



alpark.org

Philip's Animal Garden

To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: www.philipsanimalgarden.com.

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba



and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour

A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the north-eastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock forma-



tions and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadirikiri and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok National Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24 hours a day.

Go for a shopping spree in the city center

Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different

Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a variety of shopping stores, restaurants, small food stands and even a movie theater! □



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Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film "Papillon" starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island's example where 'life imitates art.' The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

"We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget," says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual, then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

Let the music play!

Another reason to visit us is our Live Entertainment Schedule all through the week.

Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back,



relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night. The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in. The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. "We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too". What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Chef's Garden 6 course dinner by Papillon

Our one of a kind executive chef Juan Ludena gets extra creative outside the kitchen of Papillon Restaurant. Serving a 6 course surprise menu featuring his International flavors and creativity with refined dishes, chef Juan Ludena is determined to give you a night to remember. Wine pairing is optional. The chef's se-

cret garden is located in a local replica of the Aruba traditional 'cunucu' house. The tropical garden is the setting for a magical in-home private dinning experience.

For more information about this magnificent option, please send us an email or ask our wait staff. Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

Make your reservation today at:
info@papillonaruba.com
or call/WhatsApp + 00297 6995400

Open Daily: 5pm – 10.00pm –
Early Bird from 5pm – 7pm

For all menus and specials visit the website: www.papillonaruba.com. □



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Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café
The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood
Auntie Anne's Pretzels**Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitor at Hyatt Regency Resort Spa & Casino**

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing an Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. This visitor was respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging his years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, and 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10+years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20+years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35+years

consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:
Emerald Ambassador
Mr. Peter Coundouris from New York,
United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Hyatt Regency Resort Spa & Casino bestowed the certificate to the honoree, presented him with gifts, and also thanked him for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination, as his home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. Coundouris were:

- "Aruba has been my favorite place to visit for more than 40 years."
- Aruba has a variety of



restaurants to choose from.

- Family-friendly Island.
- "Aruba is a place that reflects my personality the most."
- Aruba's friendly and welcoming people.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Coundouris for always having Aruba dear to his heart. □

Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothed, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass. The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to

smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural pro-

cesses, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted

beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □

Episode XLI The Phosphate Industry of Aruba: Aruba Phosphate Company in 1879

ORANJESTAD — It was so that the Aruban phosphate mines yielded a sum total of over 9.000.000 guilders, a very considerable result seeing that the original capital amounted to only 112,000 guilders. About 4.000.000 guilders in export-duties were obtained by the government from Aruba during the period.

When World War I broke out in 1914, the exploitation of phosphate became very difficult. It was impossible to get dynamite and the means of exportation became worse as a result of the war in Europe Three-to five hundred tons of phosphate per day could be handled by the pier. In 1882, about 250 men worked in the phosphate industry and the salaries were not bad.

At first mining was restricted to Cero Colorado and Cero Culebra. After some fifteen years the surface supplies on the hills had been exhausted. Borings were made in the southeast part of the island, and at a depth of from fifteen to eighteen meters deep phosphate layers were discovered from which the phosphate won during the next fifteen years was obtained.

In those years Aruba virtually bore the taxes of the whole colony, for the colony so far had needed a subsidy. In 1873 thanks to exploration on Klein Curaçao, there had been a sur-

plus, but after 1880, when the phosphate layers on Aruba began to be mined, the colony could do without subsidies for twelve years consecutively, from 1882 to 1895. Phosphate mining continued the most important source of income for the colony till the establishment of the oil-industry, Aruba being the main contributor. Our island was the milk-cow of the colony.

The procedure adopted in winning the phosphate was relatively simple. The mineral occurred in thick layers, sometimes to a depth of about twenty feet, resting on the original rock-bases of the hills and partly covered by younger limestone. The color of the phosphate varies from yellow to a reddish brown or liverish hue; it is hard, but crisp.

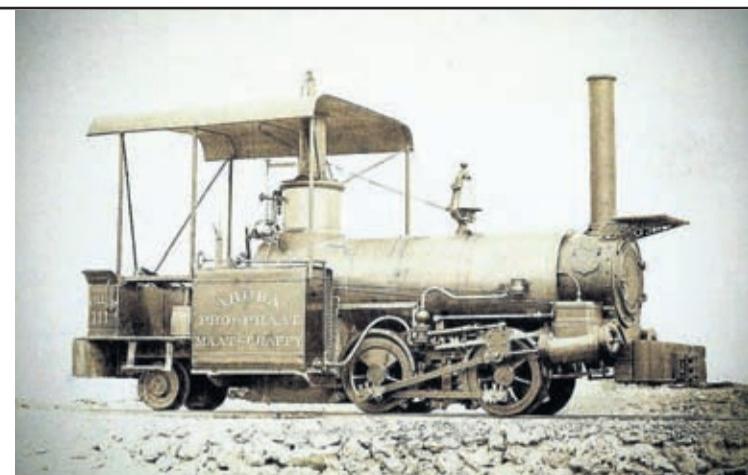
Mining was started on the surface, in open quarries. To this end about three feet deep holes were drilled by means of hand-drills, after which the phosphate was made loose with dynamite. As the workers reached further down, they came under the hollow rock and soon worked under an overhanging roof. A few pillars were left standing to support this. These phosphate pillars were later taken away when the layer had been exhausted and it did not matter anymore whether the roof caved in here and there. This stealing of the pillars was a hazardous job and had to be done very carefully. At the same time as the work in the quarries went on, mining was also started at a deeper level by constructing a shaft and galleries leading from it. In this manner a real mine was made, with corridors and high vaults where the phosphate had been removed.

But in the course of the years, phosphate exploitation became less profitable: as the phosphate had to be extracted from deeper underground, the quality became poorer. It was a very levelly industry. The Aruba Phosphaat

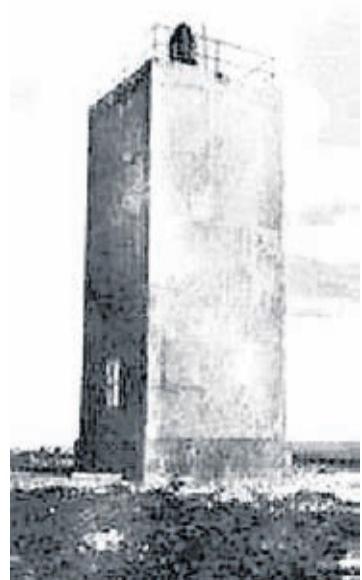
Maatschappij which was the company's name in Dutch, had to put into circulation their own currency on our rural island. Money had always been scarce here. The laborers who earned their living elsewhere used to send their wages in gold to Aruba. Before the coming of the Phosphaat Maatschappij there virtually was no Sint Nicolaas; the few fishermen's cabins assembled there could not yet pretend to the name of village. But now this little assemblage soon began to expand. The Cero Colorado Lighthouse was constructed during this period. The only real houses at St. Nicolaas, however, were those built for the Company.

Local labor was initially only found with difficulty: that was because of the rival branch of industry, the exploitation of gold. That's why forty men were attracted from Bonaire and about twenty bricklayers and carpenters from Curaçao. The workers stayed near the phosphate mines all week and slept in barracks. Even a group of Italians was attracted to the island to manage the company; four of them never left the island: Antonio and Victorio Petrocci, Eugenio Falconi and Cajetano Jacopucci. They settled at Tanki Leendert.

For the transport of the phosphate to the harbor, a six kilometer long narrow gauge railway was built and the phosphate was taken to the loading berth in trains of about twenty tip carts and a steam locomo-



tive. There it was loaded into sail ships that took it to countries like England, France, Germany and the United States to be processed to super phosphate that was used as fertilizer. To get to know more about Aruba and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.□



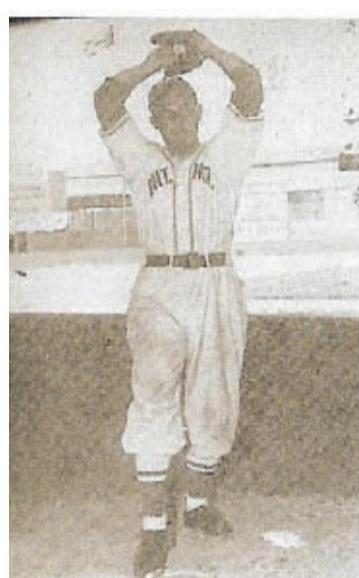
Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.

Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.

In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicos were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.

Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a double-header of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played



in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan im-



migrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers".

Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950. In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team

managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □

Written by Mr. Clyde Harms

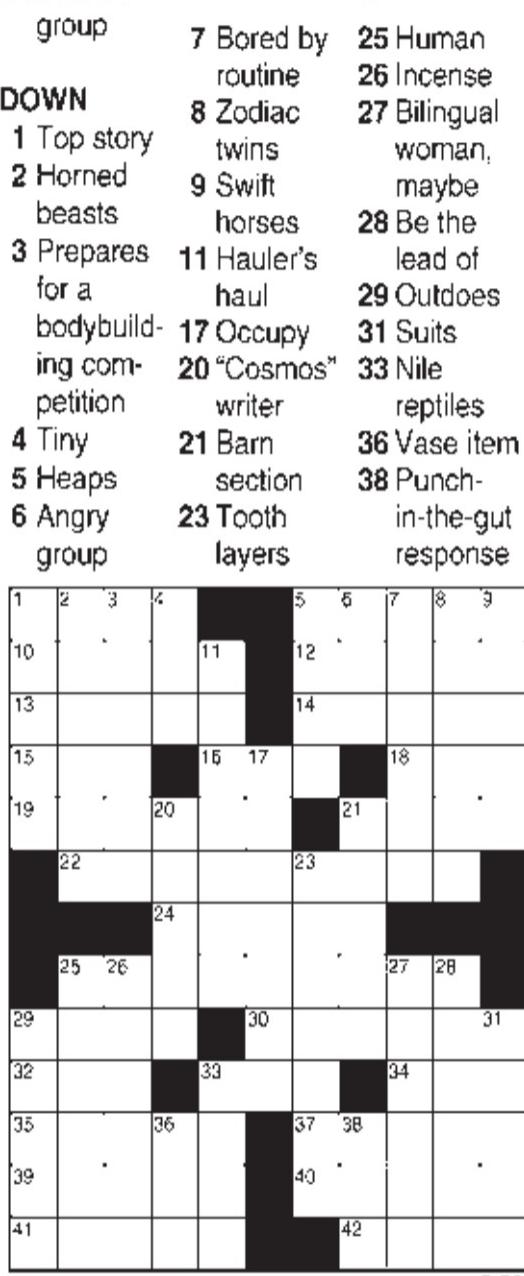
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 In — through (lined up) 37 River Nantes
 - 5 Friendly señorita 39 Touch base
 - 10 Fence supplier 40 Boom type
 - 12 Copier need 41 Winter gliders
 - 13 Floor worker 42 Stadium group
 - 14 44th president 7 Bored by routine
 - 15 They hold power 8 Zodiac twins
 - 16 German article 3 Prepares for a bodybuilding competition
 - 18 Vault part 11 Hauler's haul
 - 19 Close relative 17 Occupy
 - 21 Phoenix team 20 "Cosmos" writer
 - 22 Half of a trattoria dinner 4 Tiny
 - 24 Accra's nation 5 Heaps
 - 25 Half of a trattoria dinner 6 Angry group
 - 29 Old German capital
 - 30 White Rabbit's cry
 - 32 Goof
 - 33 Chowed down
 - 34 Price add-on
 - 35 Rough guesses



Yesterday's answer



8-26

A X Y D I B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-26

CRYPTOQUOTE

W S O O I B ' W X I C W I Q C D Q C X X

D E E W Q E B D C R C D I .

— V M X X M C O W Q C T I W U I C B I
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN THERE ARE NO GREAT TIGERS IN THE DEEP MOUNTAINS, EVEN A MONKEY CAN BECOME KING.
— CHINESE PROVERB

Starbucks' Pumpkin Spice Latte turns 20, whether you like it or not

By DEE-ANN DURBIN

AP Business Writer

The seasonal drink that made pumpkin spice a star is turning 20. And unlike the autumn days it celebrates, there seems to be no chill in customer demand.

Starbucks' Pumpkin Spice Latte goes on sale Thursday in the U.S. and Canada, as it does each year when the nights start getting longer and the fall winds gather. It's the coffee giant's most popular seasonal beverage, with hundreds of millions sold since its launch in 2003. And it has produced a huge and growing industry of imitators flecked with cinnamon, nutmeg and clove.

In the year ending July 29, U.S. sales of pumpkin-flavored products reached \$802.5 million, according to Nielsen. That's up 42% from the same period in 2019. There are pumpkin spice Oreos, protein drinks, craft beers, cereals and even Spam. A search of "pumpkin spice" on Walmart's website brings up more than 1,000 products. A thousand products that smell or taste like, well, pumpkin pie.

For better and, some might say, for worse the phenomenon has moved beyond coffee shops and groceries and into the larger world. Great Wolf Lodge is featuring a Pumpkin Spice Suite at five of its resorts this fall, decked out with potpourri, pumpkin throw pillows and bottomless pumpkin spice lattes. It has also spawned a vocal group of detractors and become an easy target for parodies. Comedian John Oliver once called



A Pumpkin Spice Latte drink rests on a table at a Starbucks in New York, Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023.

Associated Press

pumpkin spice lattes "the coffee that tastes like a candle." There's a Facebook group called "I Hate Pumpkin Spice" and T-shirts with slogans like "Ain't no pumpkin spice in my mug."

The haters, though, appear to be in the minority. Last year, Starbucks said sales of its pumpkin spice drinks including newer offerings like Pumpkin Cream Cold Brew were up 17% in the July-September period. And in a 2022 study of 20,000 Twitter and Instagram posts mentioning pumpkin spice, just 8% were negative, according to researchers at Montclair State University in New Jersey.

BEFORE THE LATTE: WHAT PUMPKIN SPICE WAS

It wasn't always this way. Canned pumpkin and pie spices were relegated to the baking aisle when Starbucks began experimenting with an autumn drink that would replicate the success of the Peppermint Mocha, which took the winter holidays by storm in 2002. Customer surveys suggested chocolate or caramel drinks, but Star-

bucks noticed that pumpkin scored high for "uniqueness." That would turn out to be prescient.

In the spring of 2003, a team gathered in a lab in Starbucks' Seattle headquarters, bringing fall decorations to set the mood. They sipped espresso between bites of pumpkin pie, figuring out which spices most complemented the coffee. After three months, they offered taste tests; pumpkin spice beat out chocolate and caramel drinks. Starbucks tested the Pumpkin Spice Latte in 100 stores in Washington, D.C., and Vancouver, British Columbia, that fall. The company quickly realized it had a winner and rolled it out across the United States and Canada the following fall. And in 2015, a watershed: The company added real pumpkin to the recipe. These days, Starbucks' Pumpkin Spice Latte has its own handle on X formerly known as Twitter with 82,000 followers, and a Facebook fan group called the Leaf Rakers Society with 43,000 members.

And it has fans like Jon McBride, who drinks black iced coffee for most of the year but eagerly awaits the latte's return each fall. "I love the flavor and I love the subculture that has evolved from this huge marketing campaign," says McBride, a graphic designer and aspiring author who lives in the Dallas area. □

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India's lunar rover keeps walking on the moon

By ASHOK SHARMA

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's lunar rover continued its walk on the moon Friday after the historic touchdown of India's spacecraft near the moon's south pole earlier this week, the country's space agency said. The rover's data collection and experiments could help determine if there is oxygen and hydrogen on the moon.

The Chandrayaan-3 Rover is expected to conduct experiments over 14 days, including an analysis of the mineral composition of the lunar surface, the Indian Space Research Organization has said.

"The rover has successfully traversed a distance of about 8 meters (26.2 feet)," ISRO said Friday. "All payloads on the propulsion module, lander module, and rover are performing nominally."

The rover will also study the atmosphere of the moon and seismic activities, ISRO Chairman S. Somnath said. "These experiments would pave the way for new scientific research about the availability of oxygen and hydrogen on the surface of the moon and can give us a direct or indirect answer as to whether there was life on the moon," the Press Trust of India news agency cited India's Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh as saying.

Pallava Bagla, a science writer and co-author of books on India's space exploration, said the rover crawls, or moves at low speed, for safety reasons to minimize shocks and damage to the vehicle on a rough surface and negotiating obstacles. It also has limited battery power.

On Thursday, Somnath said the lander had touched down close to the center of the 4.5-kilometer-wide (2.8-mile-wide) area that had been targeted for the landing. "It landed within 300 meters (985 feet) of that point."

After a failed attempt to land on the moon in



This image from video provided by the Indian Space Research Organisation shows the surface of the moon as the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft prepares for landing on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023.

Associated Press

2019, India on Wednesday joined the United States, the Soviet Union and China as only the fourth country to achieve this milestone. The successful mission showcases India's rising standing as a technology and space powerhouse and dovetails with the image that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to project: an ascendant country asserting its place among the global elite. The mission began more than a month ago at an estimated cost of \$75 million. Somnath said that India would next attempt a manned lunar mission.

Many countries and private companies are interested in the moon's South Pole region because its permanently shadowed craters may hold frozen water that could help future astronaut missions, as a potential source of drinking water or to make rocket fuel.

India's success comes just days after Russia's Luna-25, which was aiming for the same lunar region, spun into an uncontrolled orbit and crashed. It would have been the first successful Russian lunar landing after a gap of 47 years. Russia's head of the state-

controlled space corporation Roscosmos attributed the failure to the lack of expertise due to the long break in lunar research that followed the last Soviet mission to the moon in 1976. □

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It's been a blast, but Ohtani's elbow injury shows limits of 2-way stardom

By DAVID BRANDT
AP Baseball Writer

The two-way baseball superstardom of Shohei Ohtani these past three seasons has been nothing short of absurd.

Tape-measure homers on the regular. Fastballs that hovered around 100 mph. Sometimes, just a few minutes apart.

In a sports world littered with questionable hyperbole, Ohtani's on-field heroics lived up to every bit of the hype. It's why there was a palpable sense of melancholy around the sport after the Los Angeles Angels announced that the 29-year-old Japanese sensation has a torn ligament in his elbow and won't pitch again this season.

Ohtani planned to seek a second opinion before deciding if he'd have Tommy John surgery for the second time. "A tough day for him," Angels general manager Perry Minasian said when the news broke. "Tough day for all of us."

In retrospect, the absurdity of Ohtani's performances and ability was only matched by the absurdity to think it could continue forever. There's a reason the list of two-way baseball superstars is basically a two-man list: Babe Ruth and Ohtani.

Even Ruth didn't do the two-way thing for long, and that was more than 100 years ago. The Babe was a legit pitcher and hitter in both 1918 and 1919 before



Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani heads to first during the second inning in the second baseball game of a doubleheader against the Cincinnati Reds Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

becoming a full-time hitter, swatting 714 homers.

Still, with every highlight from the strapping 6-foot-4, 210-pound Ohtani, every effortless double off the wall, every overpowering strikeout, it felt like the limits of human performance didn't apply. Last month, Ohtani left a game with body cramps and was right back in the lineup the next day, prompting one beat writer to write that "maybe they just updated his software overnight."

But even machines break down eventually.

Ohtani will still be a coveted free agent this winter — maybe the most coveted in baseball history — but there's little doubt the

injury could cost him millions (and millions) of dollars. Some around the sport thought he might be baseball's first \$500 million man before the injury.

Now, something in the neighborhood of Aaron Judge's \$360 million, nine-year deal seems a better baseline, though Ohtani has the added benefit of being a truly international icon. There aren't many people who can match Judge as a hitter, but Ohtani is in that discussion. And there's also the possibility that Ohtani returns to the mound. He's certainly defied expectations before.

But here's the truth: The list of successful pitchers fol-

lowing multiple Tommy John surgeries is pretty short. Nathan Eovaldi, Jameson Tallion, Jason Isringhausen and Daniel Hudson are a handful who have had success. Current Dodgers star Walker Buehler — who recently had his second TJ surgery — hopes to join that group.

Anything Ohtani brings on the mound over the next several seasons has to be considered a bonus.

It still feels like there will be several teams willing to fork over an MLB-record deal to sign Ohtani. Even if he's purely a hitter, there's every reason to believe several more 40-homer seasons are on the horizon. It's also fair to wonder if those hitting

numbers could keep improving if he doesn't have to pitch once a week. Plus, Ohtani is athletic enough to be a stellar defensive outfielder, if he ever decided to go that direction.

But for at least a few days, it's understandable that baseball fans are mourning what was lost.

Ohtani is batting .304 with a league-high 44 homers, 91 RBIs, 97 runs, seven triples and 17 stolen bases. He has a 10-5 record on the mound with a 3.14 ERA and 167 strikeouts in 132 innings while giving up just 85 hits. That might be the best five-month performance in baseball history. Hope you savored it — because it may never happen again.

A handful of two-way prospects have been drafted over the past several years, riding the Ohtani wave that a new type of player might be on a horizon. None of them have come close to matching Ohtani's impact. Now his injury will probably have a chilling effect on other teams trying to copy that success.

The simple reasoning: If Ohtani can't handle the workload, who really can? Through it all, Ohtani has also been a stellar example of hard work and a team-first attitude. He left the first game of Wednesday's doubleheader with his arm injury — found out he had a torn ligament between games — and then insisted on playing as a hitter in the second game. □



San Diego Padres relief pitcher Robert Suárez (75) wipes his face during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, in San Diego.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — San Di-

Padres reliever Robert Suárez suspended for 10 games

Suárez was suspended for 10 games by Major League Baseball on Friday, the sixth pitcher penalized for using banned sticky stuff.

The penalty was announced by MLB senior vice president for on-field operations Michael Hill.

Suárez appealed the discipline to John McHale Jr., a special assistant to baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred. Any suspension will be delayed while the

appeal is pending.

Suárez was ejected Wednesday for having sticky stuff on his left wrist and arm before he threw a pitch in the eighth inning against Miami. Suárez denied using any banned substances, saying he only had sunscreen on his arm because it was a day game.

"We were doing a routine check," crew chief Todd Tichenor said. "We deemed

it was too sticky, very sticky, and he was ejected from the game."

After MLB began cracking down on foreign substances in June 2021, Seattle's Héctor Santiago and Arizona's Caleb Smith served suspensions for sticky substances.

Mets pitchers Max Scherzer and Drew Smith were suspended this season along with Yankees pitcher Domingo Germán. □

Noah Lyles wins 200-meter world title and looks to become a star at next year's Olympics



Noah Lyles, of the United States, crosses the finish line to win the gold medal in the Men's 200-meters final during the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, Friday, Aug. 25, 2023.

Associated Press

By EDDIE PELLS

AP National Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) —

When Noah Lyles powered into the straightaway and started pulling away in the 200-meter final, only a few questions remained on a night when track's best sprinters backed up the hype at world championships.

None of them had to do with whether he would win. The man who wants to someday be more than a mere sports star stayed on that trajectory Friday in a 19.52-second runaway to become the first man to complete the 100-200 sprint double at worlds since Usain Bolt did it for the third time back in 2015.

This was Lyles' third straight world championship in his better race, the 200.

As for the biggest questions left: Would he meet his stated goal of 19.10 seconds in the 200, and can he reach superstar status at the Olympics — well, those answers will be teased out over the 11 1/2 months between now and the Paris

Games.

"I think I've said a lot of times that I want to transcend the sport," said Lyles, who is currently the subject of two documentaries and arguably the most engaging character in track. "I am the guy who wants to move past just being 'track famous.'"

A huge part of that, of course, is getting the work done on the oval. Consider that done, at least for now. The 26-year-old American surprised pretty much everyone but himself by winning the 100 last weekend. Then, he came out and worked on his specialty, the 200.

"The 100 is fun," Lyles said. "But the 200, you know, this one is personal to me."

The same might be said for Jamaica's Shericka Jackson, who ran the second fastest time in history, a 21.41, to win her second straight title at 200 meters. Four days after taking second in the 100, Jackson beat American Gabby Thomas by .4 seconds and three steps in the 200, with

Sha'Carri Richardson taking bronze to go with her gold in the 100.

Florence Griffith-Joyner's record of 21.34 is nearly 35 years old and Jackson has now run in the 21.4s twice — this adding to the 21.45 she ran at last year's worlds. With Thomas, who has a 21.60 on her resume, and now Richardson there to push her, there's a sense Flo-Jo's mark could be ready to go in Paris.

"When I crossed the line and I saw the time, I was like, 'Oh, I'm close, I'm close!'" Jackson said.

Earlier this year, Lyles went to social media and declared he was going to run 19.10, which would shatter Bolt's world record of 19.19 that felt untouchable when he set it in 2009.

It was an audacious goal that fits into the American's overall plan.

"There's a whole world out there and the Olympics is something they connect to," Lyles said. "And Usain Bolt is something they connect to. And connecting what you do to something

that they love helps bridge that gap."

That chase for the record could make for some great storytelling over the next year.

As for Friday's win — it played out predictably.

Lyles looked a bit lumbering over the first 50 meters, but after he rounded the bend and moved into the final 80 meters, he overtook and then sprinted away from Erriyon Knighton by .23, holding off any thought of a true rivalry with the 19-year-old American for another year.

Letsile Tebogo of Botswana finished third and adds the bronze to his silver in the 100.

Lyles conceded he wished he'd run faster.

But six races over six nights, including all the heats, can get exhausting. The week has been emotional — he sobbed openly when accepting his 100-meter medal earlier in the week — and bizarre. The win came a night after a cart carrying

Lyles and other 200-meter runners to the track for the

semifinal got broadsided by another cart, sending glass flying into the eye of Jamaican sprinter Andrew Hudson. Hudson returned for the final and finished eighth.

Lyles was no worse for wear, and though he was telling the world he would win this race, some of the earlier action on Day 7 at the track reinforced the notion that nothing is for sure. Yulimar Rojas, the Venezuelan world-record holder who has won every major championship in triple jump since 2019, was languishing in eighth place and down to her last jump before she pumped herself up, got the crowd clapping, then took off and reached 15.08 meters (49 feet, 5 3/4 inches) on her last try.

It was good enough to beat Maryna Bekh-Romanchuk, who won Ukraine's first medal of the tournament — a silver instead of a gold.

Before that, the U.S. men's relay team made it through a semi-smooth lap in the 4x100 to advance to Saturday night's final. The Americans have only won this race once in their last six tries at the Olympics and worlds, thanks mostly to a history of rough baton passes.

Lyles should be in that final, which gives him a chance to go 3 for 3 in the sprints — a feat Bolt pulled off at worlds in 2009, 2013 and 2015 but that no American has done since Tyson Gay in 2007.

A success Saturday for Lyles would heighten expectations for next year.

If he pulls off a triple in Paris, Lyles would join the likes of Carl Lewis (Los Angeles 1984), Wilma Rudolph (Rome 1960) and Jesse Owens (Berlin 1936) as rare U.S. sprinters to win all three sprints on the sport's biggest stage — the stage where stars are born.

"I want people to say 'Wow, this isn't just a fast guy, he's a well rounded guy with a good personality, and I want to follow him for that,'" Lyles said. □

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